

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 + 9:30 am

The passion prediction

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Christ is the promise that we will never be lost

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

The Sundays in Lent this year lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures (first reading) and to use them as lenses through which to view holy baptism (gospel reading).

<i>February 18</i>	<i>The covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:8-17)</i>
<i>February 25</i>	<i>The covenant with Abraham and Sara (Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16)</i>
<i>March 3</i>	<i>The covenant (commandments) at Sinai (Ex. 20:1-17)</i>
<i>March 10</i>	<i>The covenant renewal (lifting up of the serpent) (Num. 21:4-9)</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>A new covenant written on the heart (Jer. 31:31-34)</i>

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

"Faith of Our Fathers"

arr. James Manfield

At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(hymn) **ELW 514**

“O Word of God Incarnate”

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.**

- 2 The church from you, dear Master,
received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.**

- 3 Oh, make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.xx

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

from the baptism font

The assembly is invited to stand or kneel; and all may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Trusting in the word of life given in baptism,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one
another.

silence is kept for reflection.

Kyrie (*Lord have mercy*) *sing responsively* (ELW setting 4, p. 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship
and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

P Gracious God,

**C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin
and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

God forgives us all our sin. Almighty God
strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son
you made an instrument of shameful death
to be for us the means of life.

Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your
Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

God blesses Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's old womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

... The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22:23–31 (ICEL)

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (22:27)

A I will proclaim your name to my people,
I will praise you in the assembly.

**C Give praise, all who fear God: revere and honor the Lord,
children of Israel, people of Jacob.**

A The Lord never scorns the afflicted,
never looks away, but hears their cry.

**C I will sing of you in the great assembly,
make good my promise before your faithful.**

A The poor shall eat all they want.

**C Seekers of God shall give praise.
“May your hearts live forever!”**

A All peoples shall remember and turn,
all races will bow to the Lord,
who holds dominion over nations.

**C The well-fed crowd kneel before God,
all destined to die bow low.**

A My soul lives for the Lord!
My children will serve, will proclaim God to the future,
announcing to peoples yet unborn, “God saves.”

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

The promise to those of Abraham’s faith Romans 4:13–25
*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right
relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though
Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that
God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

Paul writes to the church at Rome:

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to
Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the

righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

...The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing:

**Return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful;
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL

The passion prediction

Mark 8:31–38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 588

"There's Wideness in God's Mercy"

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice**

which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

A We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.
after each petition:*

....hear us, O God,

a **Your mercy is great.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

RECONCILING PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Sebastian Temple

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C God our provider,

**you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.**

**Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C it is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...and join their unending hymn: *(ELW setting 2, p. 130)*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

**C Our Father who art heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

God fills the hungry with good things.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

"Lamb of God" *(ELW setting 2; page 135)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Worshippers are invited to kneel at the chancel rail or in the pews after
receiving the Lord's Supper.*

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son.

Accompany our journey through these forty days.

Renew us in the gift of baptism. And send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BENEDICTION

P Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Almighty God, Father, + Son,
and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Faith of Our Fathers”

(hymn) **ELW 813**

stanza 1, 2, 4

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

- 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4
Text sts. 2-4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Thy Will Be Done"

arr. Ed. Broughton

You are welcomed to be seated and enjoy the postlude if you wish.

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Karen Moeller, *assisting minister*

Jill Davis, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Dave Larson, Julie Larson, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Dave Samletzka, Fred Chinquist, *ushers*

Rick Labandz, *bus ministry*

Al & Audrey Erickson, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Luann Swanson
in memory of Jim.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.



WORSHIP LIFE

Fasting, Prayer, and Acts of Love

The Disciplines of Lent

Part 1: Fasting

Lent means spring, for the “lengthening” of days. This is a season for a new awakening and for spring house-cleaning. It means cleaning out the dust and grime of a long, dark winter. The rags and dust mops and brooms of that house-cleaning are the tools called prayer, fasting, and acts of love. We pray for the good of our relationship with God. We fast for the good of our bodies. We give alms and offer acts of love for the good of our sisters and brothers. These tools are always “for the *good* of” something. These age-old disciplines reflect our most fundamental concerns: our relationship with God (prayer), with our bodies (fasting) and with each other (acts of love). This week: the Lenten discipline of fasting.

“What are you hungry for?” Pizza, Thai food, a juicy steak? Our spiritual hungers are rarely that easy to identify. The season of Lent, our 40-day preparation for Easter and Easter baptisms, is our annual invitation to grow in awareness of those deeper hungers. We need Lent to help us recognize that our meaning and mission are rooted in Jesus’ dying and rising.

Roman Catholics are probably the Christians most famous for Lenten fasting. Comedy routines about fish on Fridays or Lenten fasting are understood by the whole culture. The fast-food joints still advertise sales on fish sandwiches during Lent. Apart from the jokes, what can we learn from this discipline?

Fasting can apply to more than food. Lenten discipline can invite us to fast from other activities as well: from television or computer games, from eating out or from gossiping.

Fasting is not starvation, or empty ritual. If you choose a Lenten fast, fast for the good of your body. That may mean eating with awareness and appreciation rather than nibbling and grazing all day long. It may mean eating meals as a shared experience with family and/or friends. It may mean changing your unhealthy eating habits by changing your diet. It may mean doing without some compulsion you harbor or without a food you take for granted, so that your body feels a difference and appreciates again, in the days of Easter, that which it missed during Lent. And all the cuts of meat you did without, the deserts, the beers, the movies, the sweets — these can

be graphically translated into alms for those who are hungry and would love a bowl of rice, a thick soup, a needed medicine. Fasting wakes up the mind and sharpens our awareness of others and more readily fixes our attention beyond what is merely selfish. Many people, Christian and non-Christian find fasting to be a valuable spiritual exercise.

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Dear Friends of the Minneapolis Area Synod:

The Rev. George Cruys died on February 16, 2024, at the age of 89. We entrust our brother to the never-ending love of God with thankfulness for his many years of service to the church of Jesus Christ.



George Cruys Jr. was born in Minneapolis on February 16, 1935, to George and Mae Cruys. He received a BA from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, in 1961, and an MDiv from Northwestern Theological Seminary in 1963. He was ordained in the LCA in 1963. He married Kerine Woodhouse in 1961 and they raised two sons. She passed away in 1988. He later married Janet Flakne in 1991.

Pastor Cruys served as pastor of Fridhem, Fosston, Minnesota, from 1963 to 1965; associate pastor, St. Mark, Fargo, North Dakota, from 1966 to 1969; associate pastor, Richfield, Minneapolis, from 1969 to 1975; pastor, Trinity, Lindstrom, Minnesota, from 1975 to 1990; and pastor, Mount Carmel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 1991 to 1997 when he retired.

Pastor Cruys was preceded in death by his wives, Kerine and Janet; parents, George and Mae; nephew, John Ostlund; great-granddaughter, Audrey. He is survived by his sons, Chaplain Stephen (Connie) Cruys and Paul (Julie) Cruys; stepsons Brian (Victoria Rico), Ross, Keith, Mark Flakne; daughter-in-law, Diane Flakne; sister, Charleen Crandall; grandchildren, Erin (Jason) Beauchamp, Sarah Repp, Nicole Noto, Caroline, Kylee, Sydney Cruys; Kathryn, Cameron, Tyler, Stephanie, Veronica, Adam Flakne; great-grandchildren Lenore, Matthew, Abigail, Urijah, Lacey, and Olivia; nieces Kayleen (Gene) Lunderborg, Cheryl Manke, Mary (Al) Mileski, and Nancy (Don) Trosvig.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom, on Monday, February 26, at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be on Sunday, February 25, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Grandstrand Funeral Home, 11900 Lake Lane North, Lindstrom.



God, in Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with all your saints. Amen.

ELW p. 285

WELCOME



Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

learn, live and share God's word

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